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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/575,551	05/22/2000	Raymon f. Thompson	P97-0041US3	1306

34055 7590 06/30/2003

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EXAMINER

KEENAN, JAMES W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/575,551

Applicant(s)

Thompson et al

Examiner

James Keenan

Art Unit

3652



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/5/03
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 56, 57, 62, and 64-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 66-72 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 56, 57, 62, 64, and 65 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 5/22/00 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☒ Other: *copy of original application transmittal*

Art Unit: 3652

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 was filed in this application after a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, but before the filing of a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit or the commencement of a civil action. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the appeal has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114 and prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/5/03 has been entered.

2. Although now a moot point in view of applicant's request for corrected filing receipt, a copy of the original transmittal form showing (incorrectly) the application to be a continuation of SN 08/845,662 is attached to this action. This is for clarification only; no action on applicant's part is required.

3. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

Newly submitted claims 66-72 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 56, 57, 62, 64, and 65, drawn to a method of handling a semiconductor article, classified in class 414, subclass 805.

Art Unit: 3652

- II. Claims 66-72, drawn to a method of spinning and spraying semiconductor articles, classified in class 134, subclass 33.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as cleaning the articles. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 66-72 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

4. Claims 56, 57, 62, 64, and 65 are allowed.
5. Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Art Unit: 3652

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Keenan whose telephone number is (703) 308-2559.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 305-7687.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1113.

jwk

June 26, 2003


JAMES W. KEENAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

05-23-00

A

Patent
254/138
P97-0041US3

jc823 U.S. PTO
05/22/00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Anticipated Classification of this application:
Class _____ Subclass _____
Prior application: 09/193,746
Examiner: Keenan, J.
Art Unit: 3652

jc808 U.S. PTO
09/575551
05/22/00

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

FILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.53(B)

This is a request for filing for a

☒ continuation ☐ divisional

application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 08/845,662, filed on April 25, 1997, of

Raymon F. THOMPSON, Robert W. BERNER, Gary L. CURTIS, Stephen P. CULLITON,
Blaine G. WRIGHT, AND Darryl S. BYLE

for: SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING SYSTEM WITH WAFER CONTAINER
DOCKING AND LOADING STATION

1. COPY OF PRIOR APPLICATION AS FILED WHICH IS ATTACHED

☒ I hereby verify that the attached papers are a true and complete copy of what is shown in my records to be the above-identified prior application, including the oath or declaration as originally filed. (37 CFR 1.53)

57 Pages of Specification
18 Pages of Claims
1 Pages of Abstract
42 Sheets of Drawings ☒ formal Informal
4 Pages of Declaration

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
(37 C.F.R. §1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

EL556592651US
Express Mail Label No.

May 22, 2000
Date of Deposit
LA-146014.1

Laura Murphy
Name of Person Mailing Paper
Laura Murphy
Signature of Person Mailing Paper

05/22/00 09/575551